THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) CBI is primarily an investigating agency, on anti-corruption cases. However, CBI has separately set up a core group on terrorism which is mandated to create emergency response teams for investigation into serious incidents of terrorist crime at a short notice, as and when required.

Employees against Logic of Liberalisation

2702. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the burgeoning numbers of Central Government employees go against the logic of liberalisation and better governance;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government may also contemplate for not granting extension of service to the senior most civil servants of the land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJA) : (a) and (b) The Government has taken several steps in the recent past to reduce the number of Central Government employees with a view to cut down the expenditure on the establishment which include:

(1) The Department of Personnel & Training have issued instructions in May, 2001 requesting all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India to restrict the recruitment to one-third of the direct recruitment vacancies occurring in each year subject to further ceiling that this does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of Ministries/Departments. The Ministries/Departments have accordingly been advised to prepare the Annual Direct Recruitment Plans, starting with the anticipated vacancies in the current financial year. The recruiting agencies have been asked not to entertain any request for recruitment by the Ministries/Departments without a clearance certificate to be obtained by the respective Ministry/ Department from the Screening Committee set up for the purpose. The ultimate objective is to reduce the Government manpower by 10% in the next five years.

(2) In the recent past, four Departments, namely, Department of Programme Implementation, Department of Industrial Development, Department

of Sugar and Edible Oils, and the Department of Supply have been abolished/merged. In addition, the Departments of Telecom Services and Telecom Operations have been corporatised with effect from 1 October, 2000.

(3) The Expenditure Reforms Commission, set up by the Department of Expenditure to review, *inter alia*, the road map for reducing the functions, activities and administrative structure of Central Government has submitted 10 Reports in all covering 36 Ministries/Departments/ Organisations. The recommendations contained in these Reports pertain to rightsizing/restructuring of these Ministries/Departments etc. The Department of Expenditure have requested respective Ministries/Departments to take follow up action on the recommendations of the Commission.

(c) The existing provisions laid down in Fundamental Rules 56(d) do not permit grant of extension in service to Government servants beyond the age of retirement of 60 years except the following:

(a) to a Government servant dealing with budget work or working as full time member of a Committee, which is to be wound up within a short period of time, for a period not exceeding 3 months in public interest;

(b) to a specialist in medical or scientific fields up to the age of 62 years if such extension is in public interest and the grounds for such extension are recorded in writing; and

(c) to the Cabinet Secretary, if considered necessary in public interest, for such period as it may deem proper subject to the condition that the total term of the incumbent of the post of Cabinet Secretary does not exceed two years.

Filling up of vacancies reserved for Handicapped Persons

†2703. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the vacancies reserved for handicapped persons in various Ministries and their subordinate offices are not being filled-up;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.